

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Claim 1, cancel Claim 2, and add new Claim 19, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image recording portion that records an image on a sheet;
a sheet stacking portion which is provided above said image
recording portion and on which the sheet delivered from said image recording portion is
stacked; ~~and~~
an image reading portion that is provided above said sheet stacking
portion and reads an image on an original; and
an operation portion which performs operations on said image
recording portion and said image reading portion,
wherein said operation portion is disposed on a front side of said
image reading portion and on an upstream side with respect to a direction in which the
sheet is delivered to said sheet stacking portion, and
wherein said image reading portion is disposed on a rear side so that
the sheet delivered from said image recording portion onto said sheet stacking portion is
partially exposed to the outside on ~~a~~ the front side of said image reading portion.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1,
further comprising:

a recording portion frame that is a frame of said image recording portion;

a supporting frame that is positioned on an upstream side of said recording portion frame with respect to a direction in which the sheet is delivered, and supports a casing of said image reading portion; and

a reinforcement member for reinforcing said supporting frame, wherein said reinforcement member is provided on a downstream side of said supporting frame with respect to the direction in which the sheet is delivered, and

wherein said casing is provided close to a rear side of said supporting frame.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said recording portion frame and said supporting frame are coupled to each other while reinforcing each other.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said supporting frame includes:
a front member arranged upright on a front side of said image forming apparatus;
a rear member arranged upright on a rear side of said image forming apparatus; and

a coupling member that couples said front member and said rear member in an upper portion, and

wherein said casing is provided close to a rear side of said supporting frame, with a front side of said casing being fixed to said coupling member and said reinforcement member and a rear side of said casing being fixed to said rear member.

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said recording portion frame is provided integrally with said front member and said rear member.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image recording portion that records an image on a sheet;
a sheet stacking portion which is provided above said image recording portion and on which the sheet delivered from said image recording portion is stacked;

an image reading portion that is provided above said sheet stacking portion and reads an image on an original;

an operation portion, which is provided on a front side of said image reading portion and on an upstream side with respect to a direction in which the sheet is delivered to said sheet stacking portion, for performing operations on said image recording portion and said image reading portion;

a first circuit board disposed inside said image forming apparatus and below said operation portion;

a second circuit board disposed on a front side inside said image forming apparatus and below said operation portion; and

a first connecting member that is provided on the front side inside said image forming apparatus and electrically connects said first circuit board to said second circuit board.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising an image reading motor that is provided on a rear side of said image reading portion and drives said image reading portion.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising
an image forming motor that is provided on a rear side of the image recording portion and drives said image recording portion.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising
a cooling motor that is provided on a rear side of said image forming apparatus and cools said image recording portion.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said first circuit board includes an operation command input circuit.

12. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said operation portion includes a display portion connected to said first circuit board.

13. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said second circuit board includes a main body control circuit.

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said second circuit board includes an image information processing circuit.

15. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising:

a third circuit board disposed on a bottom portion inside said image forming apparatus; and

a second connecting member that is provided on the front side inside said image forming apparatus and electrically connects said third circuit board to said second circuit board.

16. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said third circuit board includes a power supply input portion.

17. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said third circuit board includes a control circuit portion for effecting image formation.

18. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said image reading portion includes:

an original placing stand on which the original is placed;

an original stacking stand which is disposed below said original placing stand and on which delivered originals are stacked;

an original surface reverse transport path for guiding the original from said original placing stand to said original stacking stand while reversing surfaces of the original; and

an image reading sensor that reads the image on the original midway through transporting of the original from said original placing stand to said original stacking stand.

19. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image recording portion that records an image on a sheet;

a sheet stacking portion which is provided above said image recording portion and on which the sheet delivered from said image recording portion is stacked; and

an image reading portion that is provided above said sheet stacking portion and reads an image on an original,

wherein said image reading portion is disposed so that a rear side position of a casing of said image reading portion protrudes rearward from said image forming apparatus and so that the sheet delivered from said image recording portion onto said sheet stacking portion is partially exposed to the outside on a front side of said image reading portion.